

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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P R 061348Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9305
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMMBASSY LIMA 4675
AMEMBASSH SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6185

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: LIBERALS CHALLENGE ENTIRE ELECTORAL PROCESS

1. ACTING LIBERAL PARTY DIRECTOR AND RAUL CLEMENTE HUERTA'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER, PEDRO JOSE ARTETA, ISSUED A STRONG STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 4 BLASTING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND SUGGESTING THAT THE JULY 16 ELECTION MIGHT HAVE TO BE THROWN OUTENTIRELY. ARTETA REFERRED TO FRAUD AND IRREGULARITIES IN THE PROCESS WHICH HAVE CAUSED AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF NULLIFIED BOTES, ADDING THAT THE CANDIDATE MOST PREJUDICED BY THOOSE NULLIFI-
CATIONS HAS BEEN HUERTA.

2. GIVEN THE MASSIVE NULLIFICATIONS, ARTETA MAINTAINED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHICH TWO CANDIDATES REALLY RECEIVED THE MOST VOTES AND SHOULD THUS MOVE ON TO THE SECOND ROUND. HE WENT ON TO CLAIM THAT THE IRREGULARITIES AND FRAUD WERE PART OF A PLOT DIRECTED AT THE LIVERALS BY THE SIXTO DURAN-BALLEN AND JAIME ROLDOS CAMPS AIMED AT
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DEPRIVING HUERTA OF HIS PLACE ON THE SECOND ROUND BALLOT. AS EVIDENCE OF THIS PLOT ARTETA NOTED THE CLOSE CONTACT BETWEEN CESAR DURAN-BALLEN, SIXTO'S BROTHER AND GENERAL MANAGER OF THE BANK OF GUAYAQUIL, AND LEON ROLDOS AGUILERA, JAIME'S BROTHER AND AN OFFICIAL AT THE SAME BANK. ARTETA WENT EVEN FURTHER, CAHRGING "FOREIGN INTERVENTION" IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, ALLEGING CONTACTS

BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND POPULAR DEMOCRACY LEADERS (SEPTTEL), AND MEETINGS BETWEEN CFP/DP LEADERS AND "LAWYERS FOR TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS".

3. COMMENT: ARTETA'S COMMENT CONSTITUTES THE LATEST EFFORT BY THE LIBERALS AND THEIR ALLIES TO UTILIZE THE "BIG LIE" TO CREATE AN AURA OF UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING THE ELECTIONS. VIRTUALLY NONE OF WHAT HE CLAIMED IN HIS STATEMENT IS TRUE. PARTICULARLY OUTRAGEOUS IS THE ACCUSATION THAT JAIME ROLDOS PEOPLE ARE MEETING WITH TRANSNATIONALS, IN LIGHT OF THE REPEATED CLAIMS BY HUERTA BACKERS THAT ROLDOS' RUNNING MATE IS A CRYPTO-COMMUNIST. IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT THIS LATEST OUTBURST, BASED ON MISINFORMATION AND ATTEMPTING TO PAINT FALSELY CONDUCT WHICH IS PERFECTLY LEGAL AND ACCEPTABLE, WILL HAVE THE OPPOSITE RESULT OF THAT INTENDED AND INSTEAD UNDERLINE LIBERAL ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT THE RETORNO IN ORDER TO COVER-UP DEFEAT AT THE POLLS. MORE DISTURBING, ARTERA'S CALL FOR THE VOIDING OF THE JULY 16 ELECTIONS DOVETAILS WITH TENTATIVE GOE PLANS DESCRIBED IN QUITO 6158.

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